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Professor John C. Van Dyke gives the title of *American Painting and Its Tradition* to his newly issued volume of essays (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York), illustrated with twenty-four half-tone plates. The contents of Professor Van Dyke's book comprise chapters on the Art Tradition in America, George Inness, Alexander H. Wynant, Homer Martin, Winslow Homer, John La Farge, James Abbott McNeill Whistler, William Merritt Chase, John W. Alexander and John S. Sargent. "Is tradition then synonymous with the academic?" writes Professor Van Dyke, "Not entirely; though the academies are usually the custodians and conservers of it. Unfortunately their practice tends to perpetuate a manner that soon becomes a mannerism, and finally the mannerism

usurps the place of style. The academic in France or Germany or Italy has of recent years become a term of reproach. All the rebels in art have been opposed to it. When they rebelled, their rebellion was called by them, or their biographers, 'the break with tradition.' Rather it was a break with an indurated method or the tyranny of a hanging committee. For tradition has to do more with the spirit and style of art while the academic is recognized in a method of formula which, endlessly repeated, finally becomes trite and even banal." Professor Van Dyke shares in the healthy belief that there will always be the need and the use of tradition—the consensus of opinion and body of belief as to what constitutes style in art, one may well say as to what is or is not art.

At the Villa D'Este

By HARVEY M. WATTS

What perfume of old passions still pervades
These rose-lined walks? Where Leonora sighed
To Tasso's lute, unmindful of her pride,
Stirred ever by the music of cascades
Whose organ notes go swelling through these glades,
Where Life and Art, twin genii allied,
Throw ope the joyous ivory gates, full wide,
Of pleasaunces as light of evening fades.
And when the serenata o'er the way
Stirs these sweet aisles, as soldier lover yearns
To voice desire, tho' all here spells decay,
In this green shade again the world grows young,
Beside these pools its golden age returns,
Throning again the Singer and the Song!